

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 239

UNCLAS GENEVA 478

DEPT ALSO PASS TO DHEW/OIH, MISS BELMONT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG WHO

SUBJECT: WHO 55TH EXBD - U.S. ASSESSMENT

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF REDUCING US CONTRIBUTION IN WHO TO 25 PERCENT AS ENVISAGE IN WHA26.21 WITH WHO SECRETARIAT (FURTH). WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY MEANS BY WHICH THIS CAN BE DONE PRIOR CY1978 (WHEN NEW UN SCALE WILL BE APPLIED IN WHO), UNDER TERMS OF THAT RESOLUTION. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT WHA26.21 SPECIFIED THAT REDUCTION WOULD BE MADE UTILIZING A) PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION OF NEW MEMBERS AND B) NORMAL TRIENNIAL INCREASE REFLECTED IN FUTURE TRIENNIAL SCALES OF UN. THIS RESOLUTION ALSO CONTAINED PROSCRIPTION AGAINST INCREASING ANY MEMBER'S PERCENTAGE

TO EFFECT REDUCTION FOR LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS (SAME PROVISION AS UNGA RES). DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT WHO SECRETARIAT TOOK THE LEAD AND SPONSORED THAT RESOLUTION AND FEELS THAT IT IS COMMITTED TO STAY WITHIN ITS TERMS.

2. WE HAVE ALSO DISCUSSED WITH FURTH POSSIBILITY OF ELIMINATING REQUIREMENT THAT NO MEMBER'S PER CAPITA ASSESSMENT BE LARGER THAN THAT OF THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR. FURTH MAINTAINS THAT THIS PRINCIPLE IS APPLIED AT FINAL STAGE OF COMPUTING SCALE AND THAT THE RESULT OF ITS APPLICATION IS TO REDUCE PERCENTAGE

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OF THOSE WHOSE PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION IS LARGER THAN THAT

OF US AND THAT THIS REDUCTION RESULTS IN AN INCREASED PERCENT-AGE OF ALL MEMBERS BUT THE US AND THE MINIMUM CONTRIBUTORS. HE MAINTAINS, THEREFORE, THAT IF THE PRINCIPLE WERE REPEALED HE WOULD HAVE TO APPLY THE DIFFERENCE TO THOSE WHO HAD BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED.

3. IN EXBD DISCUSSION ON PROGRAM AND BUDGET FOR 1976, WHICH WAS APPROVED JANUARY 25, DR EHRLICH CALLED BOARD'S ATTENTION TO FACT THAT WHA ESTABLISHED 25 PERCENT CONTRIBUTION CEILING IN PRINCIPLE AND ECLARED THAT ORGANIZATION SHOULD ACHIEVE IT AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS HAD BEEN DONE IN VIRTUALLY ALL OTHER UN BODIES AND URGED IT ASAP IN WHO. ONLY REACTION TO STATEMENT WAS FROM SOVIET MEMBER WHO SAID IN VIEW OF PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IT SHOULD WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

4. IN VIEW OF PARTICULARLY CLEAR BUT RESTRICTIVE TERMS OF WHA26.21, DELEGATION BELIEVES THAT OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO US INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

A) SITTING TIGHT UNTIL NEXT UN CONTRIBUTION CYCLE RUNS ITS COURSE AND NEW SCALE IS APPLIED TO WHO BUDGET IN CY1978.

B) UNDERTAKE BILATERAL CAMPAIGN WITH MEMBER STATES OF UN, PERHAPS STARTING WITH GENEVA GROUP TO EFFECT POLITICAL DECISION FOR REDUCTION AT 28TH WHA. DALE

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